


(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people
of Puerto Rico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PIERLUISI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination
process for the people of Puerto Rico.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Democ-
5 racy Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERALLY SANCTIONED PROCESS FOR PUERTO**
7 **RICO’S SELF-DETERMINATION.**

8 (a) **FIRST PLEBISCITE.**—The Government of Puerto
9 Rico is authorized to conduct a plebiscite in Puerto Rico.

1 The 2 options set forth on the ballot shall be preceded
2 by the following statement: "Instructions: Mark one of the
3 following 2 options:

4 “(1) Puerto Rico should continue to have its
5 present form of political status. If you agree, mark
6 here ____.

7 “(2) Puerto Rico should have a different polit-
8 ical status. If you agree, mark here ____.”.

9 (b) PROCEDURE IF MAJORITY IN FIRST PLEBISCITE
10 FAVORS OPTION 1.—If a majority of the ballots in the
11 plebiscite are cast in favor of Option 1, the Government
12 of Puerto Rico is authorized to conduct additional plebi-
13 scites under subsection (a) at intervals of every 8 years
14 from the date that the results of the prior plebiscite are
15 certified under section 3(d).

16 (c) PROCEDURE IF MAJORITY IN FIRST PLEBISCITE
17 FAVORS OPTION 2.—If a majority of the ballots in a plebi-
18 scite conducted pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) are cast
19 in favor of Option 2, the Government of Puerto Rico is
20 authorized to conduct a plebiscite on the following 3 op-
21 tions:

22 (1) Independence: Puerto Rico should become
23 fully independent from the United States. If you
24 agree, mark here ____.

1 (2) Sovereignty in Association with the United
2 States: Puerto Rico and the United States should
3 form a political association between sovereign na-
4 tions that will not be subject to the Territorial
5 Clause of the United States Constitution. If you
6 agree, mark here ____.

7 (3) Statehood: Puerto Rico should be admitted
8 as a State of the Union. If you agree, mark here
9 _____.

10 **SEC. 3. APPLICABLE LAWS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**

11 (a) APPLICABLE LAWS.—All Federal laws applicable
12 to the election of the Resident Commissioner shall, as ap-
13 propriate and consistent with this Act, also apply to any
14 plebiscites held pursuant to this Act. Any reference in
15 such Federal laws to elections shall be considered, as ap-
16 propriate, to be a reference to the plebiscites, unless it
17 would frustrate the purposes of this Act.

18 (b) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Puerto Rico
19 State Elections Commission shall issue all rules and regu-
20 lations necessary to carry out the plebiscites under this
21 Act.

22 (c) ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE.—Each of the following
23 shall be eligible to vote in any plebiscite held under this
24 Act:

1 (1) All eligible voters under the electoral laws in
2 effect in Puerto Rico at the time the plebiscite is
3 held.

4 (2) All United States citizens born in Puerto
5 Rico who comply, to the satisfaction of the Puerto
6 Rico State Elections Commission, with all Commis-
7 sion requirements (other than the residency require-
8 ment) applicable to eligibility to vote in a general
9 election in Puerto Rico. Persons eligible to vote
10 under this subsection shall, upon timely request sub-
11 mitted to the Commission in compliance with any
12 terms imposed by the Electoral Law of Puerto Rico,
13 be entitled to receive an absentee ballot for the plebi-
14 scite.

15 (d) CERTIFICATION OF PLEBISCITE RESULTS.—The
16 Puerto Rico State Elections Commission shall certify the
17 results of any plebiscite held under this Act to the Presi-
18 dent of the United States and to the Members of the Sen-
19 ate and House of Representatives of the United States.